

Appl. No. 10/071,938
Reply to Office Action of November 30, 2004

Docket No. CM01562L
Customer No. 24273

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 16. (Canceled)

17. (previously withdrawn) A housing for use in a portable electronic device comprising:
an outer layer, wherein the outer layer is composed of a transparent material;
an inner layer; and
an enclosed volume arranged between the outer layer and the inner layer, wherein the enclosed volume holds at least one fluid and at least one decorative substance.
18. (previously withdrawn) A housing as recited in claim 17 wherein the at least one decorative substance is a combination of one or more substances selected from a group consisting of a colored dye, a plurality of light reflecting particles, a plurality of bubbles, at least one solid shape, and at least one decorative substance comprises an immiscible liquid.
19. (previously withdrawn) A housing as recited in claim 17 wherein the at least one decorative substance is characterized by a decorative substance viscosity, wherein the at least one fluid is characterized by a fluid viscosity, and further wherein the decorative substance viscosity differs from the fluid viscosity.
20. (previously withdrawn) A housing as recited in claim 17 wherein the at least one decorative substance moves in relation to the at least one fluid in response to an environmental stimulus.

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21. (previously withdrawn) A housing as recited in claim 20 wherein the environmental stimulus is a combination of one or more stimulus selected from a group consisting of an acoustic stimulus, a thermal stimulus, an electrical light stimulus, an electromagnetic stimulus, and a mechanical stimulus.

22. (previously withdrawn) A housing as recited in claim 20 wherein the housing encases a plurality of internal components of the portable electronic device, and further wherein the plurality of internal components generates the environmental stimulus.

23. (previously withdrawn) A housing as recited in claim 22, wherein the environmental stimulus is a light, and further wherein the light interacts with the at least one decorative substance to create a plurality of visual effects.

24. (previously withdrawn) A housing as recited in claim 23 wherein the light further interacts with the at least one fluid to create a second plurality of visual effects.

25. (previously withdrawn) A housing for use in a portable electronic device comprising:
an outer layer, wherein the outer layer is composed of a transparent material;
an inner layer; and
an enclosed volume arranged between the outer layer and the inner layer, wherein the enclosed volume includes a plurality of fiber optics.

26. (new) A housing for use in a portable electronic device comprising:
an outer visible surface, wherein the outer visible surface is composed of a sensory producing substance responsive to a change in a surrounding physical environment.

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27. (new) A housing as recited in claim 26 wherein the sensory producing substance is a combination of one or more substances selected from a group comprising a thermal producing substance, a vibration producing substance, and a haptic producing substance.

28. (new) A housing as recited in claim 27 wherein the sensory producing substance causes the housing to provide to a user one or more sensations selected from a group comprising heat, pressure, and texture.

29. (new) A housing for use in a portable electronic device comprising:
an outer visible surface having:

at least one shape element composed of a sensory producing substance responsive to a change in a surrounding physical environment.

30. (new) A housing as recited in claim 29 wherein the sensory producing substance is a combination of one or more substances selected from a group comprising a thermal producing substance, a vibration producing substance, and a haptic producing substance.

31. (new) A housing as recited in claim 29 wherein the sensory producing substance causes the housing to provide to a user one or more sensations selected from a group comprising heat, pressure, and texture.

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32. (new) A housing for use in a portable electronic device, wherein the housing encases a plurality of internal components of the portable electronic device, the housing comprising:

an outer visible surface having:

at least one shape element composed of a sensory producing substance responsive to a stimulus generated by the plurality of internal components.

33. (new) A housing as recited in claim 32 wherein the stimulus is a combination of one or more stimuli selected from a group comprising an acoustic stimulus, a thermal stimulus, an electrical stimulus, an electromagnetic stimulus, an olfactory stimulus, and a mechanical stimulus.

34. (new) A housing for use in a portable electronic device comprising:

an outer visible surface, wherein the outer visible surface is composed of an appearance changing substance adjustably responsive to a change in a surrounding physical environment.

35. (new) A housing as recited in Claim 34 wherein the portable electronic device includes manual sensitivity switches for adjusting a sensitivity of a response of the appearance changing substance.

36. (new) A housing as recited in Claim 34 wherein the portable electronic device includes a software algorithm for adjusting a sensitivity of a response of the appearance changing substance.

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37. (new) A housing as recited in Claim 34 wherein the portable electronic device includes a processor for dynamically controlling a response of the appearance changing substance.

38.. (new) A housing as recited in Claim 34 wherein the portable electronic device is coupled to a computer for dynamically controlling a response of the appearance changing substance.

39. (new) A housing as recited in Claim 34, wherein the portable electronic device includes a plurality of internal components for receipt of a communication message for dynamically controlling a response of the appearance changing substance.

40. (new) A housing for use in a portable electronic device, wherein the housing encases a plurality of internal components of the portable electronic device, the housing comprising:
an outer visible surface having:
at least one shape element composed of an appearance changing substance responsive to one or more operations of the plurality of internal components.

41. (new) A housing as recited in Claim 40, wherein the one or more operations is selected from a group comprising a light from a keypad, a light from a display, a vibration from an alerting mechanism, an audible alert from a speaker.